

Abstract of the Invention

5 System and method enabling one or more client computers to connect to a server computer and receive a graphical program user interface panel for display. The graphical program user interface panel may be used to provide input to or display output from the graphical program. In one specific embodiment, the invention may comprise a distributed virtual instrumentation system, wherein a block diagram executes on a server 10 computer to perform a measurement or automation function, and one or more front panels are displayed on client computers, thus enabling one or more users to remotely view and/or control the measurement or automation function. In one embodiment, the user specifies the remote server computer by entering a URL into an application such as a web browser. When the user specifies the remote computer running the graphical program, 15 the user may also specify the particular graphical program desired. Once the graphical program's user interface panel is received and displayed on the user's display screen, the user interface panel may be dynamically updated during execution of the graphical program. The user may also interact with the user interface panel on the client computer to provide input to the graphical program executing on the server computer. In one embodiment, a user may also request and receive a block diagram for the remote 20 graphical program, e.g., in order to view the graphical program implementation or to remotely edit the graphical program.